

Erigeron aliceae T.J. Howell

Alice's fleabane
Asteraceae (Aster Family)

Status: State Sensitive

Rank: G4S2

General Description: Adapted from Hitchcock et al. (1955):

Erigeron aliceae is a perennial herb from a rhizome or woody stem-base. The plant is 12 to 32 in. (30-80 cm) tall, and covered with coarse, stiff hairs. It is amply leafy with entire or coarsely toothed leaves. The lowermost leaves are up to 8 in. (20 cm) long, including the petiole (leaf stalk) and 1½ in. (3.5 cm) wide. The middle leaves lack a petiole, and are narrowly lanceolate to oblong or ovate. There are 1 to several flower heads, with disks mostly ½ to ¾ in. (12-20 mm) wide. The involucre (whorl of bracts subtending the flowers) is loose and the individual bracts are nearly equal in length and conspicuously covered with white, coarse, stiff hairs on the lower ¼ to ¾, then glandular to the tip. There are 45 to 80 white to pink-purple or blue ray flowers that are mostly ½ in. (10-15 mm) long, and 1/16 to 1/8 in. (2-3 mm) wide. The disk corollas are mostly 1/8 in. (3-4 mm) long. The achenes (small dry, fruits that contain a single seed) are 2-nerved or sometimes 4-nerved.

Identification Tips: Within its range *Erigeron aliceae* might be confused with *E. peregrinus*, but can be distinguished by achenes, leaves and corolla length. *E. aliceae* has achenes that are 2 to 4 nerved, leaves that are covered with coarse, stiff hairs, and disk corollas that are mostly 1/8 in. (3-4 mm) long. *E. peregrinus* has achenes that are 4 to 7 nerved, leaves that are glabrous (or occasionally hairy), and larger disc corollas that are 1/8 to ¼ in. (4-6 mm) long.

Phenology: Throughout its range this species flowers from June to August. In Washington it has been observed flowering in August.

Range: This species is distributed throughout the Siskiyou Mountains of Oregon and adjacent California, north to Mount Hood, with disjunct populations in Washington's Olympic Mountains (Grays Harbor, Clallam, and Mason counties), and in Lewis County.

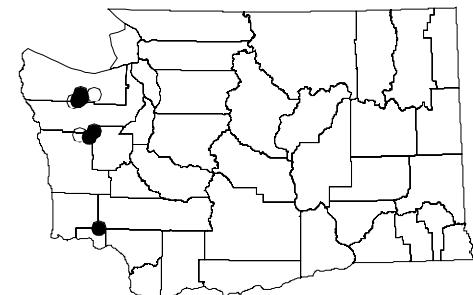
Erigeron aliceae

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Known distribution of *Erigeron aliceae* in Washington



● Current (1980+)
○ Historic (older than 1980)

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Habitat: This species has been observed growing in moist to dry sub-alpine zones and open places from 2600 to 5474 feet (792-1668 m) elevation. The following species have been found with *Erigeron aliceae*: Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*), vine maple (*Acer circinatum*), Sitka spruce (*Picea sitchensis*), red alder (*Alnus rubra*), beargrass (*Xerophyllum tenax*), Carolina bugbane (*Trautvetteria carolinensis*), streambank springbeauty (*Montia parviflora*), Siberian springbeauty (*M. sibirica*), Mexican hedgenettle (*Stachys mexicana*), white insideout flower (*Vancouveria hexandra*), shade phacelia (*Phacelia nemoralis*), prickly currant (*Ribes lacustre*), Pacific waterleaf (*Hydrophyllum tenuipes*), sword fern (*Polystichum munitum*), and northern starwort (*Stellaria calycantha*).

Ecology: This species has been found in a wide variety of sub-alpine habitats, from alpine meadows to rocky talus slopes.

State Status Comments: There are ten documented occurrences of this species within Washington, 4 of which are historical. This, in addition to the restricted range of the species, contributes to its state status.

Inventory Needs: Appropriate habitats within the Olympic National Park and Olympic National Forest should be systematically surveyed for updated population information as well as new populations.

Threats and Management Concerns: Potential threats include goat grazing and trampling. A significant number of the known populations occur in managed areas.

References:

Hitchcock, C.L., A. Cronquist, M. Ownbey, J.W. Thompson.
1955. *Vascular Plants of the Pacific Northwest Part 5: Compositae*. University of Washington Press, Seattle, WA.
343 pp.